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Paisley was adviser on 1st SALT treaty

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WASHINGTON — Former CIA official John A. Paisley participated in the negotiations of the first strategic arms limitation treaty, intelligence sources confirmed last week.

Paisley was in Helsinki, Finland, to advise the U.S. negotiators on the nation's capability to monitor Soviet compliance with the treaty, according to intelligence sources. The treaty was signed in 1972.

Paisley's disappearance while sailing in Chesapeake Bay last year had caused grave concern among members of the U.S. Senate and the intelligence community.

Their concern centers around the SALT II treaty currently being negotiated. Senators — and other government officials — uneasy about arms limitation are trying to determine whether Paisley's disappearance has anything to do with his intimate knowledge of the nation's intelligence network. He was especially knowledgeable about the nation's super-secret spy satellite system — the very reason he was sent to the SALT I talks.

Committee members are also upset about the handling of a note found in Paisley's personal papers. The note, according to a source on the committee, was in Paisley's handwriting and said, "Now, what about Shevchenko?"

The CIA destroyed the note, telling the committee it had no significance, a committee source said.

Arkady N. Shevchenko, who until his defection held the top Soviet job at the U.N., was the Soviet's leading expert on disarmament. Shevchenko defected last April.

The CIA on Friday continued to refuse comment on the Paisley case.

Because of its concern about Paisley's fate and its possible effect on the SALT situation, the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence launched an investigation into the Paisley affair.

That investigation became bogged down in January and the committee asked the Justice Department for help. The FBI was then asked to review the information available to the Senate.

The outcome, reported last week, didn't make the Senate committee feel any better. Sources in the Senate have told the Sunday News Journal that the FBI merely confirmed the finding of the Maryland State Police that Paisley probably committed suicide. The Justice Department recommended no further Paisley investigation.

The CIA has repeatedly denied that any classified documents were found among Paisley's papers. But sources in the intelligence community have told the Sunday News Journal that among Paisley's papers was a top-secret CIA telephone directory, which contains the names of employees — both undercover and otherwise.

In the past the CIA has pressed for prosecution of people who have removed telephone directories from headquarters at Langley, Va. Last year one man was sentenced to 15 years in prison for stealing a telephone directory that was less sensitive than the one in Paisley's papers. The phone books would be very valuable to Soviet agents — tantamount to giving them a blueprint for penetration, an intelligence source said.

Paisley was deputy director of strategic research at the CIA when he retired in 1974. He was subsequently given several assignments on contract until his disappearance.

CIA 1.03 Graham, Daniel
CIA 2.01 NIO (A/B TEAM)
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